

VZCZCXRO4915
RR RUEHGH
DE RUEHUL #1893 3360739
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 020739Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6383
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC 9473
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7059
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0567
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6999
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1553
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5376
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 4310
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7523
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1794
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3098
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2176
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2782

UNCLAS SEOUL 001893

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [KS](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

South and Central Asia; U.S. troop increase

"OBAMA'S WRONG AFGHAN STRATEGY AND ROK'S CHOICE"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (12/02): "President Obama's choice is unrealistic and lacks justification. ... The indiscriminate U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan has bred Taliban forces and turned all Afghan people into an enemy. In particular, by supporting a corrupt local government and playing it off against resisting forces, the U.S. is making the Afghan war into a second Vietnam War. Isn't this why Karl Eikenberry, a retired U.S. Lieutenant-General and current U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, publicly said that troop increases will only invite resistance from Afghans and that civilian workers should be dispatched instead? ... The ROKG should reconsider its plan to redeploy Korean troops to the war torn country."

STEPHENS